ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER 1990

WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

July 9 of this year was a painful day for me- one that I'll never forget. Although it's hard for me to believe, it was the tenth anniversary of my father's death.

A few days earlier, I'd made a pact with my buddy Mike Kaplan. We'd take off work; first we'd visit his dad's grave and then go out to see my father's. I certainly wasn't looking forward to it, though. The four of us at one time were inseparable, and we hadn't gone to visit in quite a while because it was just too painful.

Somehow we got through it, and a certain amount of guilt was lifted.

The mood grew lighter during the drive home. We started reminiscing, and some of our memories were about the many nights we went to wrestling together.

Burt Kaplan was a heavyset guy, a glazier by trade. He absolutely loved wrestling. Although he knew it was a work, he'd somehow purge himself of that concept and every punch and kick made him cheer in delight. Although he had served in a war, married, and raised two children, he was like a big kid who had an optimistic, almost innocent view of the world. I'll never forget when he threw a basket of popcorn over George "The Animal" Steele's head at the Nassau Coliseum. The Animal charged at us and Burt's weight propelled the entire row over backwards, onto the floor. We all got up laughing, and so was the Animal! Burt also used to delight in leading a ringside chant of "Horse's Ass!" during Baron Scicluna's bouts and "Here we go Johnny, here we go!" when Johnny Rodz wrestled his always exciting openers. Burt was a big, fun-loving guy. When he died at 53 I cried like a baby.

My father was an all-city high school basketball star, who was a sports fanatic. He became a New York City cab driver and would tell countless cab stories over the years, particularly the ones about picking up Garland, Monroe, Streisand and all the greats. He was well read and uncomfortable with the image of the illiterate cigar chomping cabbie who spoke "Dese and Dose" Brooklynese. When I was a kid he'd take me to see the classic '69 and '73 Knicks and until I discovered wrestling, there was nothing more exciting to me. Then when I bugged him long and hard enough, we finally went to Madison Square Garden for the matches and I was hooked. We never had alot of money, sometimes he'd tell me "make a choice...the Knicks or wrestling tickets?" I'd usually pick the matches, and although it wasn't what **he** wanted, he did it for me. He never loved wrestling the way I did, but loved to go because it was something a father did with his son. He was a kind, funny man whose gravestone reads "He made people laugh."

Ten years later it still hurts like hell that he's gone.

Going to the shows with Burt and my father are among my fondest childhood memories. Even today, when I'm at a hot match, I'll say to myself "Dad would have gotten a kick out of this..." or "I wish Burt could see this..."

Sometimes it's almost like they're sitting there next to me...

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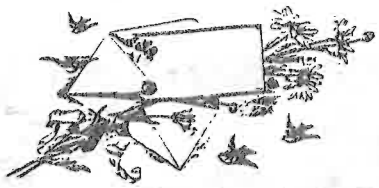
LETTERS



Regarding the info you had on Bob Ellis in #6. On a radio show here Dick the Bruiser talked about some of the old guys like Ellis. Bruiser said Bob was indeed a real cowboy who was always in good shape and a solid real 250 (as opposed to a chemical 250). Dick said he could hardly keep a straight face recalling what happened to the Cowboy. You alluded to his love for race horses and Bruiser said that was nice guy Bobs' only vice. Bob supposedly bought a race horse and raced it in Mexico, and the US, and in Puerto Pico. The problem he encountered was he raced around the same horse under different names and maybe "changed the spots around" in different places. This being some type of violation, Bob bought some time in a prison. Dick was also pretty outspoken on his disgust with steroids and some big names in the present sports/entertainment field. Was Ellis the first ever to reverse the figure four against Buddy Rogers? Maybe historian Tom Burke can give us an answer to that.

With todays' yearbooks we all know the background of present wrestlers and their gimmicks. While we have seen a few cross dressers in recent years, in the old days how many wrestlers were "cross ethnics" in their gimmicks like Italian Indians, Germans from Texas etc. Anybody got any answers to that?

Someone gave me a 90 minute audio of 60s interviews from CA. with Blassie, Destroyer, and Bruiser which is pretty amusing if anyone wants it.

I apologize for not writing sooner. I presume yours, Fishman's, and my mind all work pretty similar- we like the old stuff and we like the weird stuff. I really don't know if the old stuff was really any better because no one was as critical then and we may have been more impressionable at a young age.

NEVERMIND- I just saw a WWF show. The old stuff **was** better.

HARRY WHITE
St. Louis, Mo.

I usually don't get into reading about the wrestlers of the 50's and 60's from newsstand magazines but when I got my first issue of Mr. Ginzburg's newsletter I was hooked.

Being the young age of 18 soon to be 19 I wasn't around to see The Hells Angels, Fred Curry and Bob Backlund. Instead, the oldest memory I have of wrestling is Road Warrior Hawk popping his spiked neck collar off without using his hand.

Keep up the good work.

BOYCE JOHANSEN
Arvada, Colorado

What!? Sonny Rollins but no Oscar Peterson? I'm so confused!

PAUL MACARTHUR
Camillus, N.Y.

Although I love such sax giants as George Adams, Sonny Fortune, Stan Getz, Arthur Blythe, Benny Carter etc., **nobody** touches Sonny Rollins. Oscar Peterson may very well be the best pianist in jazz but I personally prefer Cecil Taylor & Barry Harris. Anyway, since this is a rasslin' sheet check out Paul's Wrestling Perspective- great! 7 issues $6- PO Box 401 Camillus, NY 13031-0401. By the way, the reason this whole topic came up was because Paul was referring to my "Cool 25" column. There readers & correspondents can submit lists of wrestlers & non-wrestlers alike who make the world a more bearable place to live! Sonny was ranked #2 right under Ric Flair on my list. More letters in supplement! Enjoy-**E.G.**

READER PROFILE- VIC STANLEY

Your newsletter has brought back so many wonderful memories that I wanted to share a few with you.

My childhood heroes were the great AWA wrestlers of the era. Due to the regional nature of the sport at that time, we didn't know the NWA or the WWWF at all. The likes of Reggie "Crusher" Lisowski, Dick the Bruiser, Bobo Brazil, Verne Gagne, Nick Bockwinkel, Billy Robinson and the rest were larger than life characters who relied on skill and/or personality to entertain the crowd. And they never let us down.

Not knowing any better back then, I always booed the bad guys, but I also knew that good guys and villains alike would greet us young fans with handshakes and autographs after the show. There were special moments when a huge bear of a man (any of a number of wrestlers) would struggle to hide his tears while hugging his young handicapped fans. The mutual love and admiration was overwhelming. I learned a lot of compassion from these gentle giants. They did more for us kids than they may ever realize. I remember Yukon Moose putting me up on his huge shoulder and I felt like I was 30 feet off the ground. He is still the biggest man I ever knew. Not only in body, but in heart. These guys didn't need snakes or steroids or makeup to get a reaction. The fans loved or despised them for what they really were; not for what some greedy promoter portrayed them to be. Even the oldtime promoters like Bob Luce and Wally Karbo were usually considerate to the fans.

I still have vivid memories of the Bruiser and Crusher's training regime:

'Me an' my cousin da Bruiser wuz trainin' real hard for our title match wit' doze bums Bockwinkel an' Stevens. We wuz runnin' up an' down Halsted St. in Chicaga wit' a keg a beer on one shoulder, a big piece a kielbasa slung over da udder one, an' a stogie in our mouts'. Whan da keg was empty an' we wuz burpin' up garlic, we knew trainin' wuz done! Den it was time to go ta da tavern ta do da polka wit fat Polish dames."

Verne Gagne was a champion who earned our respect through quiet dignity, perseverance and pure wrestling talent. An amateur wrestler friend of mine once trained with Verne at the University of Minnesota when Verne was already AWA world champion. Verne never forgot his roots. Today's prefabricated champions like the Ultimate Warrior just cannot compare with real wrestlers of the past. The villains always had a sense of humor causing us fans to like them deep down, despite ourselves. We reviled Nick Bockwinkel but we knew that he was a worthy champion no matter how he may have cheated to win the belt. Wrestling holds in those days were not limited to a clothesline and a legdrop. Gagne and Bockwinkel had many fine scientific matches with just the right amount of brawling to keep things hot. Bobo Brazil was one of the few positive black role models ever in wrestling. Even if he did use his hard head as an angle, at least he invented it. To this day, he is still in top notch shape, doing small indie shows occasionally. Today's black wrestlers are mostly poor imitations of Bobo.

Million Dollar men?- I think not. But they were working class heroes and had a helluva lotta class in my book! They were true to their craft and to their fans. They lived and breathed wrestling with vigor and enthusiasm. There was a certain naivete and intimacy back then which has long since been buried under mass promotion and hype. But the glory days are gone forever. There seems to be an invisible wall between the wrestlers and the fans today. Even though many wrestlers still take time out for the fans, I feel that this is often the exception rather than the rule. I cannot place the blame entirely on the wrestlers' shoulders either. Since wrestling is no longer regional, the distances that the performers must travel from show to show is much greater than it used to be. There is simply no time to linger with the fans. They are being spread too thin, and unfortunately everybody suffers because of it. Times certainly have changed.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When I receive articles of this caliber it makes me **proud** to put out WT&N. A very touching and moving piece...Vic is currently writing a series of articles covering the topics of racism, classism and sexism in pro wrestling that should be read. I am looking forward to more pieces from Vic in future issues of WT&N. Meanwhile check out Wrestling Perspective for his series...).

RODNEY LEIGHTON'S RODLINES

Howdy pardners! I was tempted to include 'simple minded' but was afraid you would think this was the Funker or something. Anyway, this is me, the notorious??? Rodney Leighton. This should appear in the Sept. issue of Wrestling-Then & Now which is rapidly reaching the upper echelon of wrestling sheetdom (How's that for suck--er, uh forget it). Seriously, this sheet is becoming very good. All it needed was a good review column; so here it is.

Been somewhat depressed of late. Oh well. Oh Me!! (Sorry, B.T.). Saw most of Clash XI. Watching a main event of JYD vs. Flair proved to be depressing in itself. I was told my rating of the live Flair vs. Hawk match was the lowest rating for a Flair match ever. I was recently reading something from somewhere, in which someone said Flair was having -*** matches with JYD. Sheesh. Also saw all of the Balt. Bash. I was quite impressed with this one. Even old Harley Race worked pretty good. Midnight/Southern Boys was about a **** match. I gave Flair/Sting ***. A series upcoming with Flair/Scott Steiner, methinks. **** matches, eh?

The best thing I have read of late is: The Snopeses Go Camping, from Stephanie du Plessis, P.O. Box 4697, San Francisco, Ca., 94101. A serialized novel for a buck each; every 8 weeks. Four now out--#5 due mid Sept. Send dollars; get the entire set. Riotous.****

Had a look at the Wrestling Forum Yearbook. I was quite impressed. I did think it was a bit overpriced at $12.50. Some wasted space; also some excellent pieces. Highlight is "memories of the Eighties" by Jon Gallagher. A great piece. Well worth trying to borrow--it's sold out long ago. ***

Immoral Earnings is a novel about a greedy and despicable slob. Very well written and captivating book. I hated the main character long before the middle of the book, which is a sure sign of excellence. $9.50 to: Dunscaith Publishing Ltd., 28 West Lodge Ave., London, U.K., W3 9SF. 124 pages.

Combat Sports, PO Box 651, Gracie Station, New York, N.Y. 10028-0011 has all sorts of wrestling goodies, including the bi-monthly sheet of the same name for $2 per issue and the weekly one pager for 60¢.

So what's the best bet on when Hulky regains the belt? What do you all think about the bulletin wars, eh?

Pro Wrestling Monthly remains the best fan oriented sheet I see. $2 per issue to :$568 Speedwell Ave., Morris Plains, N.J., 07950.

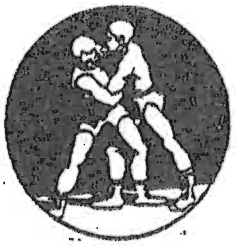
Yeah-Whatever is a neat, wacky; funny, satirical and good zine. It's even free, although it would be nice to send stamps or something, to: P.O. Box 4391, Metuchen, N.J. 08840.

Watched an entire movie the other night. Bodyslam featured Roddy Piper doing more moves and working harder than at any time in the last year and Sam Fatu (Tonga Tom; Tonga Kid; Tama the Islander; Samoan Savage) as his partner, who was very good and smaller parts for Lou Albano and The Samoans and The Barbarian and Tijo Kahn and cameos by Freddie Blassie and Flair and Bruno and some others. A grade B movie; **½.

See ya next month.

BACK ISSUE DEPT. $1.25 EACH/$1 EACH WHEN PURCHASING MORE THAN 1 ISSUE

Issue 1- Andre (face) vs. Hogan (heel) 1981/Gary Fishman's cult fave- "Marital Breakup"
Issue 2- Brody-Abdullah/Evan discovers wrestling/Fishman's wrestling glossary
Issue 3- Tony Altimore interview/Backlund-Graham 1978/Celebrities I'd like to DDT
Issue 4- Predictions 1980/Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard Profile/So. Calif 1972
Issue 5- Stars From Past-Thesz/Ray Stevens/Luis Martinez/Fred Curry/B. Jaggers Florida 1978/Wrestling Trivia/Dr. Scott's Dental Advice to the Stars
Issue 6- Stars From Past-Ellis/Black Gordman/Killer Brooks/Mikko Mongol/Bobo/AWA 1978 Scott Dickenson Interview Pt. 1
Issue 7- Wrestling World 1973/Leighton's Cool 25/How I Know I've Reached The Arena-Comedy



RON DOBRATZ'S HISTORY OF CHICAGO WRESTLING PART 1 - 1950

EDITOR'S NOTE- I was originally planning on continuing with Ron's look at 1973, but since so much space in WT&N has dealt with the 70's, you can purchase his wonderful 1973 Record Book/Photo Album for $2 and read it all yourself. It's a bargain- trust me! The address: 11750 Graystone Circle/Roscoe Il., 61073.

The Mighty Atlas was the strongest wrestler to appear in Chi. in 1950.

More people attended wrestling shows because of Gorgeous George than any other wrestler.

Chicago's most unusual wrestler was Carl Engstrom, who billed himself as Amazing Zuma, "Man from Mars" and wore a helmet and mysterious goggles, and was accompanied by a valet named Zorkl.

MOST MEMORABLE MATCHES:

1) Lou Thesz thwarting Gorgeous George's attempt to apply a step-over toehold, with a kick that sent his foe out of the ring between the ropes and face-first on a typewriter. Gorgeous George ended up bloody and counted out in their July 27 match at Wrigley Field.
2)Former heavyweight boxing champion, Jack Dempsey, refereed the Feb. 10th main event between Gorgeous George and Don Eagle. Gorgeous George tore Jack's shirt and Dempsey stunned him with a punch that allowed Eagle to make the pin.
3)Referee Earl Mollohan gave Don Eagle a fast 3 count despite the fact both of his shoulders did not appear to be pinned by Gorgeous George (5/26). Don reacted with a violent attack on the referee and never again appeared at the Intl. Ampitheatre.
4)Buddy Rogers evened up his 2-out-of-3 fall match with Lou Thesz (June 21) using a piledriver, then lost the deciding fall when he tangled his neck in the ropes and was counted out.
5)LeRoy McGuirk's loses in 20 years of college and professional matches were as rare as his appearances in Chi., but on 1/28, he defeated Al Williams at Marigold. Before the year ended, the universally accepted Jr. Heavyweight Champ lost the sight in his 1 good eye, when broken glass in an automobile accident severed the nerve and left him totally blind.

The years biggest disappointment occurred on 7/27 when Howard Cantonwine replaced the legendary Bronko Nagurski for his scheduled bout with Bill Longson.

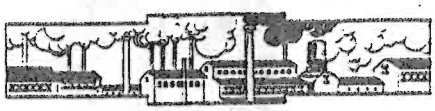
Best Card- held at Wrigley Field on 6/21: Lone Eagle beat the Great Jo-Jo; Cyclone Anaya beat Benito Gardini; Verne Gagne drew with Billy Goelz; Mr. Moto Drew with Ruffy Silverstein in a judo jacket match; Hans & Fritz Schnabel went to a no contest with Rudy Kay & Al Williams in a battle of Chicago's best and roughest tag teams; Thesz W Rogers.

BEST YOUNG NEWCOMERS: 1) Verne Gagne; 2)Juan Hernandez; 3)Bob Geigel; 4)Johnny Barend

10 BEST FAN FAVORITES: 1)Lou Thesz; 2)Don Eagle 3)Billy Goelz 4)Walter Palmer 5)Cyclone Anaya 6)Verne Gagne 7)Ruffy Silverstein 8)Johnny Balbo 9)Farmer Don Marlin 10)Frankie Talaber

TEN MOST SUCCESSFUL VILLAINS: 1)Hans Schnabel 2)Gorgeous George 3)Buddy Rogers 4)Bill Longson 5)Mr. Moto 6)Ivan Rasputin 7)Gypsy Joe 8)Al Willaims 9)Rudy Kay 10) Lord James Blears

NEXT ISSUE: CHICAGO'S MOST MEMORABLE WRESTLING IN 1960! ALSO: NOSTALGIA FOCUS ON NORTHERN CALIFORNIA 1974...THE OFFBEAT HUMOR OF GARY FISHMAN...A NEW INSTALLMENT OF WHEN WRESTLING MEETS REALITY...NOSTALGIC LETTERS...MANY SURPRISES...TELL A FRIEND ABOUT WT&N...



EVAN'S SOCIALLY RELEVANT COLUMN

My readers have been demanding a more socially relevant WT&N, and since attending Central Park's Earth Day concert/rally several months back, I've been meaning to use this forum to deal with societal problems of grave importance.

Thus, my long-awaited notes on Earth Day and its political ramifications:

1) Squeezing 18 speeches by sleazy, hypocritical politicians and osbcure activists between each 2-4 song set doesn't make for another Woodstock.

2) Nonetheless, the B-52's were pretty cool.

3) If I hear Ben E. King sing Stand By Me one more time I'll kill myself.

4) When actor Ron Silver urged the audience to become environmentally active, the wasted guy next to me screamed, "We're just a bunch of f------- drunks here to see a free concert." It was a moving moment, and probably foreshadowed a new age of activism, where people learn to once again care for their world.

The highlight though was when Vince McMadman spoke about his involvement in Earth Day:

"The WWF's very involved in Earth Day," he stated. "In fact, several years ago we started our own energy conservation campaign...Remember how hard Rick Martel worked when he was AWA champion? Well, we cut his work rate by at least a solid 60% here in the WWF. We're saving energy every night because we have **all** our wrestlers involved in this program. In fact, it's worked so well that many of our fine young athletes **leave** the ring without even breaking a sweat."

As if that wasn't enough, McMadman also made mention of the fact that he doused his WWF ice cream bars with so many chemicals and carcinogens that he'd "kill each and every one of those mutant wrestling fans and make the world a cleaner place."

Bravo to Vince McMadman and the million concerned ralliers who left tons of garbage and $100,000 worth of damage to the park. Thanks also to the readers of WT&N for demanding "less wrestling and more politics" on these pages. It's citizens like you who are the future of our wonderful global community.

(**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following piece & Encountering The Stars Of The Past was written by a reader who prefers to remain anonymous!)

CLASSIC QUOTES FROM THE PAST PART 1

JOHN TOLOS on an interview:

"You know, I was walking down the street and I saw this kid playing with garbage and piling up small stacks of trash. I asked him, 'Hey kid, What are you making?" He answered me, "I'm making Tony Rocco." I said to him, "Kid, that's really neat, you stacking the garbage here and making Tony Rocco, but why make Tony Rocco? Why don't you make Victor Rivera? The kid looked at me and said, "Because I don't have enough garbage!" Ha...Ha...Ha...Do you get it?"

DUTCH SAVAGE (In the early 60's when up in Seattle feuding with the Tolos brothers and using his infamous illegal thumb to the throat).

"I'll tell you what. I'm giving both of these guys a dose of the thumb and when I'm done with them, they won't even be able to drink a glass of beer."

MAD DOG MARCIAL BOYER (When handcuffed to the ringpost to keep him from interfering a bout. He grabbed a security guard and screamed...)

"Get a chainsaw and cut off my hand! Get me out of here right now! If you don't have a chainsaw, then shoot off the lock like Matt Dillon would do. No, better yet. Give me your gun. I'll shoot those guys in the ring!"

BARON LEONE:

"Shit!" (When he walked into the ring wearing his long, black robe, opened it and realized he'd forgotten his trunks.)

BRUNO IN ST. LOUIS BY HARRY WHITE

With Johnny Valentine having a heart attack & Dory Funk Jr. having a supposed truck accident, promoter Sam Muchnick brought in Bruno to fill the void. His 1st match (4-6-73) was a co-main event with Kiniski-Invader and Bruno-Ivan Koloff. Bruno was the only debuting wrestler in a main event in St. Louis. Koloff was brought in as to not let a local St. Louis guy be beaten. The next card (4-27-73) Bruno unmasked the Invader as Dick Murdoch. The following show (5-11-73) old St. Louis Favorite Rip Hawk was brought in after an eight year absence to lose to Bruno. Again a local territory wrestler did not have to lose to Bruno. The co-main event was Race-Kiniski. After establishing himself with three straight wins, Bruno got an NWA title shot against brand new champ (since 5/24) Harley Race on 6/15/73. Special ref was Lou Thesz. The other feature match was Jack Brisco against Kiniski. Also on the card was Pat O'Connor & Terry Funk in different matches. That made seven past or future NWA champs on the card. Race got a pin for the first fall and Bruno gained a submission for the second. The heat was incredible for the duration of the hour draw as Bruno applied his submission bear hug numerous times. I had no idea what to look for then but the big stars who had never wrestled before put on quite a show for the crowd. They had no time to practice like Hogan and Warrior yet showed what professionals they were by working hard for an hour draw.

Unless Dave or Tom Burke can correct me, I don't think these two greats ever wrestled again.

ENCOUNTERING STARS FROM THE PAST PART 3- ONTARIO

SCRAPIRON SCRANTON: An independent wrestler trained by Johnny Powers and polished up by Luis Martinef. Was running his own shows in early 1980s and genuinely built up some good heat for himself. Would always play the master villain a la Bull Curry and make a production out of refusing to sign autographs when surrounded by fans. He liked to play the wildman, bad-assed biker role to the hilt. Not too many people wanted his autograph after his first few shows, as the people legitimately detested him. He built up more heat than many top, mainstream workers.

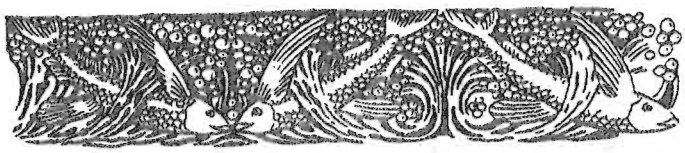
TONY PARISI: Often had a "don't bother me," type of attitude and would try to avoid autograph seekers and fans. When asked to sign autographs while going to the dressing room when he first arrived at the arena, he was good at saying "later," then ducking into the dressing room and not coming out. He seemed to be pretty sold on himself and not too worried about keeping up a good guy image, as other cohorts did. Not too friendly and after several "afters" I used to be one of his most vocal detractors.

RED BASTIEN: Met him a couple times when traveling down to the US and found him to be a real jerk. He and Pat Patterson were instrumental in giving autograph seekers and amateur photographers a hard time. Shows how times have changed for this guy, who no longer has to play the smiling babyface. He and Patterson rank among the two men I dislike the most among many. Walked right past when I asked for his autograph and later had a hoard of fans removed from the back area, although well away from the security checkpoint. Once a fan favorite, now a tobacco chewing jerk. Gives off the striking image of a little man, trying to be important.

MOOSE SCOTT: A big, jovial worker who seldom left Canada and stuck mainly to the indie circuits. Friendly, happy, good natured, and big enough to tear apart many name stars in legit action. Especially liked to pose for photos and meet fans.

ZOLTAN THE GREAT: A real weirdo who loved to shock fans with this gay gimmick which was presumedly an act. He liked to blow kisses at the camera when you took his picture, and being a wiseguy, signed my autograph book "Love, Zoltan The Great." A hilarious performer, too small for the big time, but talented and vastly underrated. A headline for Indies up here; still active but slowing down.

DINO BRAVO: Used to sign autographs liberally...a genuinely polite guy.



GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN

Evan continues to be the most up to date editor in the business. When Coach Kurt's wrestling phone line claimed that Ricky Steamboat won the ICW title and I heard it was Vic, I thought I'd ask Evan to clarify. He said he thinks it's Sam Steamboat...I don't know why everyone is so excited that Tommy Rich lost weight- the most exciting thing about his matches was watching his belly shake...What happened to all of the fans who cursed Dusty Rhodes like a dog for years saying he lacked the foresight to turn Flair Babyface? Since Rhodes stopped booking the NWA I have only been to 1 or 2 really good cards...Ole Anderson has a great business sense getting JYD, The Iron Sheik and Norman since these are guys who always **bounce** back...How come everytime I come to Evan's house he brings out the same box of pretzel sticks that he's had since 1986?...Evan asked me to review the year 1972. Well, I got my driving license, attended community college and learned my first card trick...I gave my wife a chair for her birthday but she refuses to plug it in...The NWA plans to bring in Bill Watts but only to team him with Tex McKenzie... Speaking of the NWA their shows are getting confusing because I can't tell where one match ends and the next one begins...In listing Evan's favorite wrestlers in the last issue I inadvertently omitted Bob Bradley, El Gigante and Greg Gagne...Maybe Evan would keep more girlfriends if he would stop challenging them to arm wrestling contests and then when they start to win, hitting them over the head with the tables...The reason I haven't been getting any bulletins is because reading about wrestling reminds me about watching it... If the Southern Boys had some personality they would be tremendous-why not turn them heel and give them to Paul E...I've been in Evan's house for two hours and he's been on the phone for the last hour and a half...If they want to get Sid Vicious over they should give him back his old haircut and let him make those weird expressions again-ever since Lurch died they don't make heads like that anymore...

CURFEW

A 90 minute best of Cassette Wrestling News- $6 from Jeff Osborne, PO Box 765, Boonville, IN. 47601- features Lawler's notorious anti-Brian Tramel interview...Speaking of B.T., he recently wrestled his first match and is introducing the TU Rasslin Riot sheet- 5 issues for $3 from 1806 Self Circle Apt #B, Jonesboro, AR. 72401- Say you saw it WT&N- Hey B.T., how about a shoot match with The King?...My mom and aunt both burst into tears after reading my cover story- I usually feel the same way when I watch the WWF T.V. tapings...Is there any other sheet in fandom that has a regular columnist make fun of the editor each month like the legendary masked Fish-Man does to me each issue?...Exclusive inteview with Sheik Adnan El Kaissey in next WT&N...Gene Kiniski plays a violent biker cop in the movie Terminal City Ricochet- Kiniski, 61, held the world heavyweight title from 1966-68, successfully defending it 221 times in 1968 alone- he was a 40 year ring vet... I've been working on this sheet **all** weekend- if you're xeroxing the sheet & giving it to a buddy or passing it on after reading it, tell the cheapskate to break down & pay the .25¢ a week--really, only other editors know just how much work goes into this...Man, I sounded nasty there didn't I? Maybe it's the fact that my word processor just broke for the 3rd time this month and I'm doing this on a (gasp!) typewriter-or maybe it's that my company may be going out of business soon- if that's the case I need just 3,000 more readers so I can live off this like Meltzer...Seriously, though, doing this sheet is **very** rewarding and every kind word and submission is **truly** appreciated-it's not a money thing- this sheet is a labor of love & please let me know which features you like the most & how I can improve it...Hotter than wrestling caught live this summer- Reggae great Pato Banton (best live reggae act I've ever seen except for maybe Black Uhuru), rapper/toaster Shinehead, legendary Rhythm & Blues oddity Screaming Jay Hawkins, and the smokin' Ms. Rhythm, Ruth Brown...Special hello to the Fabulous Flying DeQuattros, 2 of my fave subscribers & friends...Thanks to all who resubscribed- if your subscriptions are due, please remember to mail your checks...Let me know how you like the supplement- time permitting, I'll do them more frequently...See you next time!

WRESTLING-THEN & NOW SUPPLEMENT #1

Hey gang! It's the first no-frills supplement where I take care of low priority items like results, news & some letters I didn't have room for. One of the flaws of WT&N is its space limitations, so I'd consider making this a semi-regular feature as it gives you 20% more to read, makes WT&N more topical as I can do this at any time during the month(even after the sheet itself is printed up already), and helps me catch up with any plugs etc. Anyway, enjoy..

RESULTS- NWA MEADOWLANDS ARENA EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. 8/24/90 A-6,500(Approx.)

1. Z-Man W Dutch Mantell (Zzzzzzzzzzzzzz--bad!) 1/4*
2. Flyin' Brian W Buddy Landell (Disappointing) 1*
3. Big Van Vader W Dr. X (Not much heat but a helluva lot of smoke!) 1*
4. **STEINERS W MIDNITE EXPRESS FOR US TAG BELTS 15 MIN-** Slow start/awesome finish/ bit short but best match of night. Midnites rarely have bad night. 3½*
5. Stan Hansen **SQUASHES/PINS** Terry Taylor 5 Min- Wild brawl with Stan doing 80% of offense. Some of best action of night. 3*
6. Vicious/Wyndham/Anderson W Gigante/JYD/Orndorff- Waste of horsemen 1 3/4*
7. Lex Luger W Mean Mark (Nothing special at all-Paul E. & Mark argued later) 2*
8. Doom W Rock 'n Roll Express (Again, nothing too great) 2½*
9. **STING PIN RIC FLAIR 27 MIN.** Very good match but doesn't compare to Flair-Funk or Flair-Steamboat--I still have my doubts about Sting. 3½*

CARD NOTES: I attended the show with Dan Reilly & sons, the legendary masked (Gary) Fish-Man, Dore (Double D) DeQuattro and his buddy Randall, and Between The Ropes editor(and Lance Levine's most hated foe)Adam Horowitz. Check out BTRopes for $1 at 336 Harbor Drive-Lido Beach, NY 11561--good sheet! Talked with Dave Meltzer, Chris Cruise & others in crowd...Next show Jan., 1991!

WRESTLING CONVENTION- ROYCE HOTEL QUEENS, N.Y. AUGUST 25-26 JOHN ANTHONY, PROMOTER

I had the honor and pleasure of sitting on a panel with Terry Funk, Dave Meltzer, George Napolitano, Carmine DeSpirito, Michael Omansky (who puts out great nostalgia videos, Wrestling Classics- I'll review in a future issue), Adam Horowitz; sitting next to me was none other than Cactus Jack. It was a round-robin discussion in which Chris Cruise led an enthousiastic and intelligent crowd through such topics as "Do The Sheets Hurt Wrestling?" & "Is Wrestling Over-Saturated on T.V.?" Funk & Cactus both were enthousiastic about the sheets with Terry saying that Meltzer has helped make him a "cult heroe." Cactus said he "Didn't know he was any good until he kept reading it in the sheets!" Cactus is a funny guy, he kept telling me jokes and breaking me up in the middle of the discussion- real down to earth as is Terry. Anyway, in 10 words or less the audience basically did agree that the sheets were **not harmful** to the mat game and that the over-saturation on the boob tube potentially was.

It was also a real pleasure meeting Tom Burke whose Global Wrestling News Service is the granddaddy of sheets & still running strong ($1.50 plus SASE to 31 Groveland St. Springfield, MA. 01108). Nostalgia lovers take note--this man is a walking encyclopedia of wrestling & a great guy to boot. He may be doing a piece for WT&N in the near future.

Also great to meet Betsy Anderson, subscriber John Pantozzi, and to see old friend Scott Dickenson, Ted E. Field and countless others..

The UWF held a press conference & introduced such stars as B. Brian Blair & Dan Spivey. I wish them luck...selling tickets these days is no easy thing...

Many of the wrestlers **sold** autographs which is a practice I'm not fond of--to their credit, however, most signed for free when away from their table or on the way out...

One thing about being involved with a sheet--you meet great people from around the country--it's very rewarding to have someone tell me they enjoyed something I wrote and to even quote from it...again, there's no $ in this but the rewards **are** there!

NEW YORK BASED WRESTLING FANS CAN CATCH JOHN ANTHONY'S WRESTLING RADIO SHOW SUNDAY MORNINGS ON WBAB FM! CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS!

TURN...

LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS!

I don't want to make this sound like "Dear Abby" (besides, the Butcher can't write with a fork.), but I have some advice for you pertaining to your article in issue #6, "When I Meet Ms. Right." Youre wrong buddy. You shouldn't give up anything for Ms. Right. Ms. Right will be someone who loves you no matter what your other passion is. If you gave up wrestling for her, you'd regret it down the road. You want a personal experience? Here you go:

I dated a girl in college for 2 years who despised wrestling. I really loved this girl. After I graduated, I moved to Long Island (from Mass.) where she lived. She dumped me 3 months later (not for wrestling). I was crushed. But those 3 months was the least exposure I had to wrestling. All I did was catch the MSG shows live. No wrestling on t.v., no sheets, nothing. I can look in hindsight now and know if I had married her, it would have been a disaster. No Arena Report, no meeting so many interesting people, and most of all, no Cheryl Lemieux. Love is a two way street buddy. So to all the Cheryl Lemieuxs, Mary Reillys and Elaine Herron's of the worlds we love ya!!

See you next month with a piece of **my** mind.

RON LEMIEUX
ARENA REPORT

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Hey Ron, I was just kidding with the article! Why would I possibly give up Tugboat Thomas for **any** woman? Seriously, though, I did get several letters expressing exactly what you're saying and I totally agree...**)**

Enjoying newsletter tremendously. You're filling a gap-fitting a niche. Keep plugging away.

WADE KELLER
PRO WRESTLING TORCH

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm sure the majority of my readers are already hip to AR & Torch...if not check them out- 2 of my fave bulletins).

Thanks for trading bulletins with me. I've enjoyed WT&N. I'm trying to convince our star nostalgia writer Terry Dart to write for you. We'll see...

Good luck in the future!

GREG OLIVER
THE CANADIAN WRESTLING REPORT

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It would be an honor to have Terry on board WT&N. I've enjoyed his work for some time now. Some of my readers have mentioned he'd be ideal for us. Hope it works out).

BLATANT PLUGS!

Ungawa! is a magazine of murder, mayhem and madness- covers horror, grade B flicks etc. Lots of fun- write to Ungawa! PO Box 1764. London NW6 2EQ, England...Obscure Publications & Video is a review zine which comes highly recommended- $1 from Jim Romenesko, PO Box 1334, Milwaukee, WI 53201...Texas Roundup is a new sheet written by a wrestler-$1.25 to PO Box 750532306 Grand Prairie, Texas(send cash)...Jeff Cohen of Fantasy Federation is offering free back issues to anyone who sends a stamp- 50 Shelly Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023...Jody Boyns'New England Wrestling Scene (521 Pine St. (Apt. 304) Manchester, NH 03104) continues to be an underrated bulletin with strong T.V. coverage- check it out-13 for $7 ...Bump! is coming on strong! Send $1.50 for a sample to Kris Pope at 6964 W. 84th St., Mpls., MN. 55438... The address for The Torch is PO Box 201844 Minn., MN 55420 ($1.25 per) while Arena Report is still stationed in the heart of Sloewood--916 Sloewood Ct., Lake Mary, Fl. 32746 (.75¢)... All sheet editors are reminded that they can forward their publications to Rodney Leighton at R.R.#3, Pugwash Nova Scotia, Canada BOK 1L0 for **review**--not just a plug!...Kandykorn Jackhammer is a fun/strange zine free with an SASE to PO Box 1964 Venice Ca. 93002...